

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for the unification of the semantics of classes and functions in a programming language. The semantic rules follow the pattern of: keyword name(parameters), where keyword is either class or function. Both the function and class bodies contain statements that are executed after the structure is instantiated. In either construct, these statements comprise constructor code. A function also optionally returns a value. In one embodiment, software is written in an interpreted programming language implementing the present invention. The interpreter instantiates a class on the memory heap. The class remains instantiated until the class destructor is called. A function is instantiated on the memory stack. The function remains instantiated until the final line of constructor code is executed. The function is then automatically destroyed.